

Federal Aid Process/Climate Initiatives Competitive Grants Program Overview
Questions & Answers
November 9, 2010

Q1. When will the final report to MTC be due?

A1. 30 days after completion of the project

Q2. How will non-profit and/or private partners be approved?

A2. The lead agency should submit a completed Public Interest Finding Forum form to Caltrans prior to their field review. Sylvia will be the main point of contact for this issue and she will coordinate between her engineers and FHWA.

Q3. What phase of the project should marketing be included in?

A3. It will probably be considered PE but this is subject to change during the field review for individual projects.

Q4. Will we have to meet DBE requirements for our grants?

A4. Non-profits and government agencies are not subject to DBE requirements. If the partnership involves private businesses there may have to be a DBE goal.

Q5. The dates for the TIP amendment are different on the handout and the PPT, which is correct?

A5. Use the dates on the newest version of the TIP schedule handout which is available for download at the following location:

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/tip/DRAFT_2011/2011_TIP_Revision_Schedule.pdf

Always refer to the MTC website as adjustments to the schedule may occur.

Q6. Can an order for vehicles be placed before we receive our E-76 if we are not paying for them until after we receive authorization?

A6. This is subject to field review but is unlikely since you will not have ROW clearance, etc. It's best to talk to Caltrans first before proceeding with the procurement process.

Q7. Can you charge staff time?

A7. You can only charge staff and first line supervisor time, not executive staff time but this is also subject to field review. Indirect overhead rate has to be approved for indirect costs and this approval is approximately a year behind if your agency does not already have an approved indirect cost plan.. There are caps in each phase on staff time charges as well. Staff time can be covered through your match if you are "over matched."

Q8. How should non-infrastructure projects program their funds?

A8. According to Caltrans programming staff, such projects will need to be programmed as a construction phase in the TIP, though the projects will still have to go through PE and ROW Cert requirements. However it is expected that this would be simplified and proceed quickly for non-infrastructure projects. More details will be available upon the field review.

Q9. Will projects be required to close out each phase before moving to the next?

A9. No, but there are other benchmarks you must hit before moving between phases. Also, if a phase is left open you run the risk of having it become inactive and losing those funds unless you invoice Caltrans on a regular basis..

Q10. What is the protocol if a project has to re-program their funds after their field review?

A10. If funds are being moved between phases then it can be done through an administrative modification. If a new phase is required then this would have to be done through a TIP amendment which requires more time.

Q11. If we are programmed for 2012, when should we meet with Caltrans?

A11. Projects should still schedule field review as soon as possible since early delivery is encouraged. Contact the senior engineer in project sponsor's county to arrange a meeting.

Q12. For the county share of the SR2S projects, how will it change when the projects are broken out of the block entry?

A12. Non-infrastructure elements of the SR2S program are to be programmed entirely as CON in the TIP.

Q13. If the project is in multiple locations what Caltrans engineer should be contacted?

A13. Contact the Caltrans engineer that oversees the county that the lead agency is located.

Q14. What preliminary ROW work is allowed in PE?

A14. Mapping, general estimating, no acquisition or appraisal. Field review will clarify.

Q15. What is the projected date of release for the new, shorter PES form for non-infrastructure projects?

A15. Unknown but it should be soon.

Q16. There is no link for floodplain maps in the presentation, where are they found?

A16. They are FEMA floodplains map and can be found on FEMA's website or googled.

Q17. When should all the environmental documentation be completed?

A17. The PES form should be completed before the field review and the agreed upon necessary environmental documents will be completed in the PE phase.

Q18. Before the new PES form is released, how should projects proceed?

A18. Proceed with submitting the current, long form.

Q19. Can a project be split to ensure that planning for one part of the project doesn't holdup the other parts?

A19. For the environmental process you can only do so if the split phases of the project do not depend on each other ("independent utility"). Based on meetings with local assistance more than one con phase may be warranted based on how construction will be staged in the implementation of the project.

Q20. What is the benefit of breaking out the group TIP listings?

A20. It will be easier to request changes directly by the project sponsor in FMS; it will provide more transparency to the public and to project sponsors, and it will be easier monitor projects through the FMS system..

Q21. How do projects submit their Resolution of Local Support?

A21. Upload to the project documents section on FMS by December 8th.